

REMARKS**I. General**

Claims 1-27 were pending in the present application. The present Office Action addresses claims 1-21 of which claims 15-21 are allowed, claim 9 is objected to with an indication that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and claims 1-8 and 10-14 are rejected. The outstanding issues in the current Office Action (mailed August 11, 2004) are:

- The Office Action is incomplete because it fails to address all pending claims;
- Claims 1-6, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,599,192 issued to Olson (hereinafter "*Olson*");
- Claims 7, 8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Olson*.

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding claim rejections, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

II. Amendments

Claims 1 and 4 are amended and claim 9 is canceled without prejudice herein. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 1 is amended to include the element originally recited in claim 9. Thus, the amendment to claim 1 effectively rewrites original claim 9 in independent form as claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 is canceled without prejudice. This amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of the original claim 9 in any way, but rather claim 1, as amended, is intended to be afforded the full scope (both literal and under the doctrine of equivalence) as original claim 9. Because claim 9 is indicated in the present Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form. This amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of the original claim 4 in any way, but instead merely rewrites it in independent form. No new elements beyond those of claim 4, as originally filed, are presented by this amendment. That is, claim 4 originally depended directly from independent claim 1, and the amendment to claim 4 presented herein rewrites it in independent form to include all elements of the original claim 1 from which claim 4 depended. Accordingly, independent claim 4 is intended to be afforded the full scope (both literal and under the doctrine of equivalence) as the original dependent claim 4.

III. The Office Action Fails to Address All Pending Claims

The present application was filed with 27 claims, numbered 1-27. However, the present Office Action asserts that claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Accordingly, claims 22-27 are not addressed by the present Office Action. As such, the present Office Action is incomplete, *see* M.P.E.P. § 707.07(i) (“In every Office action, each pending claim should be mentioned by number, and its treatment or status given”).

Because claims 22-27, which appeared on page 31 of the originally filed application, were not addressed in the present Office Action, Applicant submits that the Examiner has either overlooked this page or the Office mishandled page 31 after receipt of the present application such that the Examiner does not have that page of the application. For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicant submits with this Amendment the following:

- 1) A copy of the claims of the present application, as filed (i.e., pages 27-31 of the application); and
- 2) A copy of the postcard that accompanied the present application when it was filed, which identifies that the documents filed included 26 pages of specification and 5 pages of claims (i.e., pages 27-31).

The Office stamped the postcard with the filing date 08/01/03 and the preliminary serial number 10/632422, and returned the postcard to Applicant as evidence of receipt of the documents listed thereon, *see* M.P.E.P. § 503 (“A postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the items which are being filed serves as *prima facie* evidence of receipt in the USPTO of all the items listed thereon on the date stamped thereon by the USPTO”).

Applicant respectfully requests treatment of claims 22-27 on the merits, and respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the *Olson* reference applied in the present Office Action, as addressed further below.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Olson*

Claims 1-6, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Olson*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as provided further below.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single reference must teach every element of the claim, *see* M.P.E.P. § 2131. As discussed further below, Applicant respectfully submits that *Olson* fails to teach each and every element of claims 1-6, 10, and 11, as amended herein.

A. Independent Claim 1

As described above, claim 1 is amended herein to effectively rewrite original claim 9 in independent form. Because claim 9 is indicated in the present Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

B. Dependent Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10, and 11

Further, claims 2-3, 5-6, 10, and 11 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Thus, each of claims 2-3, 5-6, 10, and 11 inherits all limitations of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 10, and 11 are allowable not only because of their dependency from independent claim 1, but also in view of their novel claim features.

C. Independent Claim 4

As described above, claim 4 is rewritten in independent form herein. *Olson* fails to teach each and every element of claim 4. For instance, claim 4 recites, in part, “wherein said at least one segment of said socket comprises a plurality of said conductive engagement

members for engaging a common conductive pad of said blade” (emphasis added). *Olson* fails to teach this element of claim 4, as discussed further below.

As shown in FIG. 4 of *Olson*, *Olson* discloses “a first connector or header 110 spaced or exploded from a mating second connector or receptacle 112” (col. 4, lines 56-58). The header 110 has “a plurality of blade-like terminals 118” (col. 4, line 61). The receptacle 112 has “a plurality of cantilever beam terminals 130, one of the cantilever beam terminals 130 extending through each of the receptacle passages” (col. 5, lines 8-10). In *Olson*, when the header 110 is mated with the receptacle 112, only one cantilever beam terminal 130 of receptacle 112 engages each of the header’s blade-like terminals 118. For instance, *Olson* explains at col. 5, lines 53-56 “Each blade-like terminal 118 further includes a strip-like contact portion 148 having a substantially flat surface for wiping and contacting one of the cantilever beam terminals 130” (emphasis added).

In view of the above, *Olson* does not teach that the receptacle 112 has “a plurality of said conductive engagement members for engaging a common conductive pad of said blade”. Rather, each cantilever beam terminal 130 of receptacle 112 engages a different one of the blade-like terminals 118. The implementation of *Olson* is different, for instance, than the example embodiment illustrated in FIGURES 1A-3 of the present application in which a plurality of conductive engagement members 103 of socket 100 engage a common conductive pad 209 of blade 200.

Accordingly, because *Olson* fails to teach at least the above-identified element of claim 4, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by *Olson*. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Olson*

Claims 7, 8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Olson*. Dependent claims 7, 8, and 13 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and thus inherit all limitations of independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 7, 8, and 13 are allowable not only because of their dependency from independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, but also in view of their novel claim features (which both narrow the scope of the particular claims and compel a

broader interpretation of claim 1).

VI. Claims 22-27 are Allowable over *Olson*

As mentioned above, the present Office Action fails to address claims 22-27. However, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over *Olson*. For instance, independent claim 22 recites, in part:

conducting electrical signals of one polarity from one of the first and second circuit boards to the other of the first and second circuit boards via the engagement of the first conductive pad and the first conductive member; and
conducting electrical signals of a polarity opposite said one polarity from one of the first and second circuit boards to the other of the first and second circuit boards via the engagement of the second conductive pad and the second conductive member.

Olson to teach at least the above elements of claim 22. That is, *Olson* does not teach conducting electrical signals of one polarity via engagement of a first conductive pad of a blade and a first conductive member of the socket, and conducting electrical signals of an opposite polarity via engagement of a second conductive pad of the blade and a second conductive member of the socket. Indeed, Applicant finds no mention at all of polarity of the electrical signals conducted in *Olson*.

Claims 23-27 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 22. Thus, each of claims 23-27 inherits all limitations of claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 23-27 are allowable not only because of their dependency from independent claim 22, but also in view of their novel claim features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 22-27 be treated on their merits, and submits that these claims should be passed to allowance.

VII. Conclusion

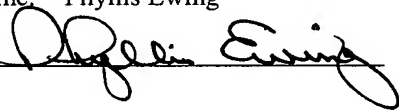
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The required fee for this response is enclosed. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200209136-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 482738887US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: October 26, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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